

Southeast News

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NUMBER 6

Annual Meeting A Resounding Success!

The Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, held this year at Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, June 16-17, brought a larger crowd than usual, with an unusual amount of enthusiasm.

Hartland Helmich, Emilie Lester, and Franklin Thomas of the Council for Lay Life and Work, furnished inspirational moments of worship and song through the Faith Exploration, along with Group Learning Centers. Conference officers and leaders supplemented and enforced the leaders.

Perhaps the largest crowd ever to attend, came to this Annual Meeting — approximately 225 delegates, ministers, and visitors from 50 churches. Housing and meals were furnished quite adequately by the college.

Everyone was involved in discussion, agenda setting led by William T. Scott Jr., and decision making. When it was all over, we were tired but felt that this was the best conference ever.

Responsible delegates and leaders were ready for work and provided this by staying through until the end with their jobs.

Elected as moderator was Wallace Boothby of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, along with Franklin Thomas of Central Church, Atlanta, as vice-moderator; Mrs. A. D. Harry was elected secretary and Norris Connally, treasurer.

An offering taken at the conference was divided equally between student scholarships and the Uplands Retirement Center.

The conference closed at noon on Sunday, June 17, with a communion service led by Hart Helmich.

At the close of the service, the conference sang "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands." As one delegate put it, "For the first time I really found out what it means to celebrate our faith when we worship, and it feels great!"

—C. Andes

NOTICE!

We regret that the pictures taken at the Annual Meeting are not available as the Southeast News goes to press. They will be in a later issue, if all goes well.

Regional Meeting Led By Thomas And Cameron



Southeast Conference one of 36 others, met with the Regional Group for the Southeast in a FAITH EXPLORATION May 18-20, at Atlanta, Georgia.

Franklin Thomas, national chairman of the Council for Lay Life and Work, and Marian Cameron, Southeast Conference person responsible for planning, directed the Regional Meeting for this area, including lay, clergy, and staff persons. David Beebe of Chattanooga, Tenn., served as "theological reflector."

Launched a year ago, FAITH EXPLORATION events have included conference-wide training sessions, followed by events in "cluster groups" and individual churches involving thousands of UCC members.

Regional meeting participants assessed the value of this particular response to the "Faith Crisis Priority" of our denomination; had the personal growth experience of sharing in a "mini" Faith Exploration; and planned for "next steps" often in relation to other denominational programs, such as evangelism and the Shalom curriculum. Favorable response was given to the new packet "Faith Exploration for the Local Church."

Other members of the Southeast Conference team planning for next steps in FAITH EXPLORATION were: Trudi Sanford, Freda Brown, J. K. Murphy, Carl and Sharon Jeter, David Beebe, Annie Ruth Hill, and W. J. Andes.

Harold Hillyer Thomas

Born Nov. 10, 1895

Died June 5, 1973



June 5, 1973, marked the passing of one of the most beloved and oldest members of First Congregational Church, Atlanta.

Funeral services were held at the church Friday, June 8, 1973, at 3 p. m. at which Dr. W. J. Andes, conference minister of the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, gave the invocation and Dr. Homer C. McEwen, pastor of First Church, gave the eulogy.

Harold Hillyer Thomas had served on the Board of Trustees of the church for over 50 years; was treasurer of the Southeast Conference from 1967 to 1970; was moderator of the Georgia-South Carolina Association at the time of the merging of the two associations in the same area; and was a member of the National Association of Postal Employees since he was in the Railway Mail Service for many years.

Mr. Thomas is survived by his wife, Mrs. Vera Thomas, of Atlanta, and a brother, Dr. Mack Thomas of Los Angeles, Calif.

Interment was in South View Cemetery, Atlanta.

Fidler Begins 6th Year At Cullman

George A. Fidler began his sixth year as minister at St. John's United Church, Cullman, Alabama, June 3, 1973.

For the Fidler family many important events have taken place since coming to Cullman and St. John's. They have had two children, George Jr. and Marian, to graduate from Cullman High School; George Jr. and Patrice were married in St. John's Church.

As for the church's response to his ministry, 214 members were gained and the budget of St. John's has increased 2½ times. The Young Women's Fellowship and other groups were started.

The Larry Johnsons Study In England

During July, Dr. and Mrs. S. L. Johnson will study at Christ Church College, Canterbury, England. They will be back in Birmingham at Pilgrim Church by August 12.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Georgia-South Carolina Association will be having a joint camp with the Presbytery U. S. A. on August 5-11, 1973. The place is Piedmont Presbytery Camp, Cashiers, North Carolina. The cost is \$35.00 for the first camper in the family. Additional members of the same family can go for \$30.00 each. There will be two camps at the same time. Pioneer Camp for grades 4, 5, & 6. Explorer Camp for grades 7, 8, & 9. If you would like to send your children, please notify the conference office.

The Brookmeade Church in Nashville recently purchased a new Allen organ. Their fund drive for \$1,860 resulted in \$2,150 being received.

Pilgrim Congregational Church in Chattanooga voted to buy a new pipe organ from the Moller Pipe Organ Company, model M-5200, for an estimated \$36,365, the down payment to be made from existing memorial funds and the balance to be financed over a nine-year period.

Robert Partridge is serving as pastor of the Old Liberty Church, Houston, Alabama. Mr. Lester Waid, a member of the church, was ordained to the ministry May 6, 1973, and will assist Mr. Partridge in the services.

Recognition Service For Oldest Members At Bethany Church

Rev. Artis Johnson and the membership of Bethany Congregational Church designed and executed an impressive recognition service in honor of the two oldest living members of the church on Sunday, May 20, at 11 a. m. The honored individuals were Mrs. M. C. Flipper, who became a member in 1899, and Mr. Richard Williams, who became affiliated with the local congregational church in 1903.

Both of these senior members have stated that they were inspired to join Bethany because of their high school, The Allen Normal and Industrial School, from which they received their high school diplomas. They were very much aware that the Bethany Congregational Church was organized at Allen Normal.

Mrs. Flipper has served as church pianist, has worked with the ladies' groups and held offices in all of them. In addition to that, she has represented the church at various conferences.

Mr. Williams' major religious responsibilities included the role of church clerk, a superintendent of the Sunday School, a deacon, Sunday School Union's Summer Outings.

The title of Mr. Johnson's sermon was "A Good Soldier." He pointed out a number of times how Mrs. Flipper and Mr. Williams had been stalwart Christian soldiers through rendering consecrated services.

The highlight of the morning was the awarding of certificates by Mr. Johnson to the two deserving elderly members.

Mrs. Flipper resides at 430 Lester Street, while Mr. Williams lives with his wife, Mrs. Lillie B. Williams, and his daughter, Mrs. Mildred W. Newton, at 310 Magnolia Street.

The Thomasville News
May 30-June 5, 1973

50th Anniversary At Beunjei

The Rev. and Mrs. Henry C. McDowell, Kings Mountain, N. C., recently returned from Angola in Africa.

They left for Angola in May to attend the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the church Dr. McDowell founded there in 1923.

Dr. McDowell was the first missionary sent overseas by black Congregational churches. Dr. McDowell went to Angola in 1919. He selected the site of the Bunjei Mission in Galanque, Angola, and with his colleagues built a school, hospital, domestic training school for girls, and started the Bunjei Church.

Mortgage Burned At Pilgrim, Birmingham, Sunday, June 3

The mortgage on the 240-member Pilgrim Congregational Church was burned in special services at 11 a. m. Sunday, June 3, 1973, featuring denominational leaders and a former pastor, according to John H. Ensminger, Chairman.

Dr. David L. Beebe, pastor of Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., preached, "What Is a Pilgrim Church?" Dr. W. J. Andes of Atlanta, Ga., conference minister of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, brought greetings and Roy Meinke, a Huntsville layman, represented the Ala.-Tenn. Association.

The Rev. Clarence Baldwin, pastor when the building was built, assisted the Rev. S. Lawrence Johnson, current pastor, in serving communion and in burning the mortgage. Wallace Boothby Jr. introduced Dr. Beebe. William C. Patterson represented Birmingham Trust National Bank.

A history of the church by Mrs. Frances T. Feazel showed that it was founded in 1903. Services were first held at Temple Emanu-El, then at Pollock-Stephens Institute, a downtown private school for girls, and later at various theatres.

An early pastor, Dr. George Eaves of England, who came in 1907, founded what is now the Jefferson County Tuberculosis Association and worked for it after he left the church. He had the disease earlier.

The founding of Independent Presbyterian Church under Dr. Henry M. Edmonds brought some question of the church's future because they shared "virtually the same ideal." For a time, the two churches cooperated in evening services and the Pilgrim bylaws were altered to let church members be in both congregations. A merger plan failed after Independent became Presbyterian instead of Congregational.

The church virtually died for 10 years, returning to life in 1928, under the name United Church of Birmingham-Christian Congregational, and tried to recoup funds realized by the denominational building society from sale of the property, which was never occupied. A settlement was reached several years later when the church returned to the Pilgrim name. Problems relating to ineffective pastors and other issues kept the church from growing.

First Presbyterian Church split in 1931 over the views of its pastor, Dr. Trevor P. Mordecai. The majority of the church members left when Dr. Mordecai was

(Continued on Page 3)

Pleasant Hill Has Faith Exploration

Twenty Pleasant Hill Community Church members gathered at the Community House on Saturday, June 2, 1973, for a Faith Exploration meeting. In three "family groups" they confronted each other with such questions as: "What is the most meaningful thing that happened to you in a local church in the last five years?" "Why are you a Christian?" "What persons or events influenced you in developing a Christian life?"

Part of the morning was given over to in-depth Bible study to help us explore our faith. After lunch we looked at our own priorities: What issues concern us? What values do we place on these issues? What organizations do we belong to? Do they help meet these goals? What takes priority in our lives? Finally we studied the UCC Statement of Faith and closed with a meaningful communion service.

In an evaluation by the group present, it was stated that the meeting had been a most meaningful experience for all present. The small discussion groups made intimate and in-depth discussions of faith experience come easy. The suggestion was made that perhaps a series of weekly "retreats" with individual sessions limited to an hour, would encourage more participation. Perhaps these could be held in homes, where more comfortable chairs would make sitting a bit easier!

MORTGAGE BURNED...

(Continued from Page 2)

ousted and his family background in the Congregational Church caused him and his followers to reach out to the small Congregation church. That began an association which brought a larger membership but collapsed when Mordecai left and many of his followers went elsewhere.

In 1932 the church got its first real home, the Axis Club at 1819-Eighth Ave., which was later demolished to be replaced by a church building. The church started an orchestra, lectures, book reviews, musical programs and a circulating library to gain money for "Dr. Mordecai's Relief Fund."

Dr. Edwards, now retired, was invited to be pastor of Pilgrim in 1949, while continuing a counseling service he had starred. He remained 3½ years and restored ties with the denomination.

The church voted to call Baldwin in 1952 and made plans for its present building at the same meeting. The "church with the blue roof," designed by Fritz Woehle, architect, has brought many awards and much publicity. The church now operates a day school, has numerous clubs and is flourishing.

With Regard To Sunday Mornings

Somehow public worship has been forgotten by some of us, or rather it has been relegated to second or third place in our activities. One of the books which is recommended advance reading before our summer school in England during July is "The Documents of Vatican II". Frankly, I've not enjoyed the language, it's a little too pious for my taste, but it is a book I'd recommend. There is much emphasis on worship: the assertion that the service of worship is truly the center and heart of Christian life, or should be.

Paragraph 59 is suggestive: The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, build up the body of Christ, and finally to give worship... they not only suppose faith but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it; that is why they are called the **remnants of faith**. They do indeed impart grace, but in addition the very act of celebrating them disposes the faithless most effectively to receive this grace in a fruitful manner to worship God and nourish the Christian life."

Throughout this document is insistence upon that which the centuries have taught: that formal worship of God is the true center of the church member's life. Its importance cannot be minimized. Yet so many of us become apathetic. Anything else becomes more important. I am convinced that ultimately the nation will suffer from this attitude.

—S. L. Johnson

Columbus Church Changes Name

The First Congregational Christian Church of Columbus, Ga., recently changed its name to St. Stephen United Church. The church is located at Carden Dr., at Norris Road, Columbus, Ga. 31907.

The pastor, William Wilson, writes — "For the first time we have paid all bills in full for the year, even the paving assessment. The grounds have been beautified. New people and increased interest have come. New hymnals, "The Hymnal of the Evangelical & Reformed Church," have been purchased. The baseball team is winning and new uniforms have been purchased by the gift of one person."

Bonanza Day Camp

Bonanza United Church of Christ will again have a combined Day Camp with the Lovejoy United Methodist Church. The date, August 20-24. Each child is asked to bring a sack lunch each day. They will be meeting outside with Camp Calvin as the setting. Swimming, crafts, games, and lessons are planned.

Wayne Moseley Installed At Lowell Church, Roanoke

On Sunday, June 10, 1973, Wayne Moseley, the student minister at the Lowell Congregational Christian Church, Roanoke, Alabama, was installed as pastor and teacher of the church. Sharing in the service were the following: Rev. Terry Clark, associate minister of the United Church of LaGrange; Rev. Joe A. French, minister of First Church, Roanoke; Rev. W. J. Andes, Southeast Conference minister; and Dr. Charles F. McCook, who preached the sermon. Dr. McCook is head of the Dept. of Religion at LaGrange College and is the senior ministerial advisor for Wayne Moseley and James Smith, students at LaGrange College. Mr. Smith is pastor of the Jones Chapel Church at Woodbury, Ga.

First Church, Roanoke, also shared in the service that morning and enjoyed the lunch with the Lowell Church people that followed the Service of Installation.

Mr. and Mrs. Moseley and their two children live in the parsonage of the Lowell Church in Roanoke.

Talladega Choir Gives Concert In Atlanta

The Atlanta-Talladega Alumni Club presented the Talladega College choir in concert at the First Congregational Church April 29, 1973. A large and enthusiastic audience greeted the singers and their director, Horace R. Carney. Dr. Herman Long, president of Talladega College, brought greetings during the intermission.

The concert was dedicated to the memory of Walter H. Smith, formerly executive vice-president of Atlanta Life Insurance Company and a trustee of First Congregational Church. Waldo E. Blanchett, retiring president of Fort Valley State College, was also honored for devoting his entire professional life to educational service at Fort Valley State.

Dr. Melvin Dollar

Dr. Melvin Dollar, pastor of Bethel Congregational Church, Ontario, California, and well known in the Southeast Conference, recently suffered a mild heart attack. After 3 weeks, he was back in his pulpit and now plans to be in his church office each day from 9:00 a. m. to 12 noon, and to visit the sick, shut-ins, and new people.

He writes: "Even though I have had to temporarily curtail some of my activities, I am able and still ready to be of any service I can." Our prayers are for his speedy recovery.

Report Of Committee On Long-Range Planning Approved

I. During 1967-1972, the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ sought to answer the question, "How can this conference be turned around and pointed in the direction of effective mission?" A special committee, composed of moderators of the conference and associations; and Serge Hummon of the Board for Homeland Ministries, consulted with many people, local churches and associations. The following goals were adopted:

1. Strategy and program provided by the conference and associations would be crucial to the life of the churches.

2. New churches in metropolitan growth centers.

3. New ministries with Negro people.

4. Town and country ministry development. These were years of struggle for survival, which would allow us to prove ourselves as a conference. Structural changes were made: nine associations merged into six, and into three association areas; eight commissions into three: Education, Church & Ministry, and Outreach. Gradually the insight arose that the local churches must be enabled for numerical growth and mission. The concept of enablers arose. These enablers would be located in different areas of the conference but would be responsible members of a conference team. They would be accessible to pastors and people, churches and associations as well as to the conference. Thus the idea of a Conference Team Ministry was proposed.

In the beginning of 1972 some new input made it necessary to alter the plans for moving ahead:

1. A reduction in national O. C. W. M. funds and the serious financial crunch in the conference.

2. Re-evaluation of present assets and staff.

3. Consideration of some immediate goals or priorities.

It became evident that people in leadership and churches needed to be pulled together, learning to know and to trust one another. The conference needed to continue the process of becoming a conference.

II. The 1972 meeting of the Southeast Conference authorized a five-year Long Range Plan. The committee, consisting of Donald P. Flick, Homer C. McEwen, Mrs. W. Walter Hall, Mrs. Jackie Shrago, Mrs. Trudi Sanford, Arnold Slater, Joe A. French, John T. Enwright, and W. J. Andes, was appointed by the Board of Directors and met several times during the year. The general theme, "Let's Grow Together," was adopted to point the direction of our planning.

The next step was to set some priorities

or goals for the conference which would complement the theme. The third step was to develop concrete programs to implement the goals.

Proposed goals:

1. GrOwing in a Sense of Oneness.
2. GrOwing through Christian Nurture.
3. GrOwing means membership Increase-New Congregations.
4. GrOwing in Leadership Training
5. GrOwing through a Task Force Ministry
6. GrOwing in the support of the Broader

"Instant Stewardship" Given At Annual Meeting

Rev. Karlton C. Johnson, stewardship secretary for the Southeast Region, presented to each delegate at the Annual Meeting an envelope marked, "Instant Stewardship Pocket Kit", which he explained in connection with the new formula for setting goals.

Inside the envelope were these items: a shoestring, a paper clip, a piece of string, a toothpick, a rubber band, and a band-aid.

The shoestring — represented churches that are existing on a "shoestring," a limited budget, a real struggle because of lack of regular support by members.

The rubber band — represented "stretched budgets" for similar reasons, lack of adequate support by members or lack of enthusiasm or goals in the church.

Paper clip — represents the desperate attempt to "hang things together" when they seem to be falling apart.

The piece of string — represents the supporting member who gives "with strings attached," not trusting the elected officials of the church or the leaders of the denomination. More often than not it is that the member is poorly informed and out of ignorance places restrictions on his or her gifts.

The toothpick — represents the "dead wood" on the membership roll of every church. The Word of God talks about the "stumps" or "twigs" that may sprout again. This is always our hope and prayer that hearts grown cold will some day warm again to the Grace of God and live again for Christ who once called them and they responded.

The band-aid — is for those who give of themselves and their means until it hurts. For such there is the promise that one day the Master will say: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful in many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord."

The question is: Just where does each one of us fit into this parable?

Mission of the Church (Our Christian World Mission)

III. Implementing the Goal of Oneness - Identity Program.

The one goal that the Long-Range Planning Committee hopes to see implemented at this conference meeting is the deepening of our sense of Oneness through the Identity Program.

In 1971-1972, pastors of aided fields met, shared their hopes and frustrations and expressed the need of an Identity Program for their own work and for the conference. The Identity Program has been developed and designed to interpret the United Church of Christ in the Southeast, to ourselves as well as to those about us. Two pilot projects were started this year: Huntsville and Knoxville.

The Identity Committee prepared a packet and has projected a 3 to 5 year program, which will now begin to implement the proposed goals. Additional packets and programs should be developed to implement other goals, such as evangelism, etc.

Recommendation:

The Long Range Planning Committee would recommend that the Southeast Conference adopt the general five year theme, "Let's GrOw Together," and the six outlined goals which set direction for us over that period of time.

And that Long Range Planning Committee be continued to work out ideas and plans over the next year, helping to set priorities and to implement goals through the conference structure and through the Task Force Groups which might be appointed by the Board of Directors;

And further, that the Long-Range Planning Committee work with the Board of Directors in carrying out and evaluating a creative 5-Year Plan.

—Donald P. Flick, Chairman

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Introduction To The Identity Program

The directives to the Identity Committee by Southeast Conference were to launch a program which would help make the United Church of Christ known across the southeast. With help and support from the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Office of Communications of the United Church of Christ an Identity Program for the conference has been developed and is ready for delivery to the local churches.

An identity crisis is at the root of many of the problems that affect people, churches, our nation, and our world. The questions: Who are we? What is our purpose? Where are we going? How are we to relate to others? are important questions . . . and how they are answered makes the difference between emptiness and wholeness, aimlessness and purposefulness, life and death.

The Identity Program of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is designed to help persons and churches deal with the whole matter of identity by helping them ask the right questions and search for answers which have real meaning.

The Identity Program should help local congregations discover who they are and why they are and then motivate them to reach out to share their discoveries with the larger community. The program has a built-in process of evaluation, because when you stop to evaluate, then things begin to happen. It is our hope that whatever happens will provide a spring-board for strengthening the local church and thereby a more meaningful religious community for helping people to find a relevant Christian faith.

The Identity Program is designed to stimulate the thinking and action of both ministers and lay persons — BUT will not move the church forward unless lay persons catch the vision, help dream the dreams, and do much of the work required to get the process underway and functioning.

The concern of those working on the Identity Program for the Southeast Conference is not that by some magic our efforts will renew the work of the United Church of Christ in the southeast, but that this program be a stepping stone in the process of helping the United Church emerge as the church God wants it to become.

It is our hope that each local congregation of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ will engage to some degree in the Identity Program so that as we strengthen the significance of our individual ministries we will strengthen the whole. —Donald P. Flick

Setting OCWM Goals Is Adopted

When the Conference Annual Meeting voted to approve the budget, the question was raised as how best to allocate to local churches the amount that would be their fair share. Basic Support giving by the churches to Our Christian World Mission is the only method the conference has of raising the necessary funds and most churches want to know the fair share expected of them.

At the request of the Outreach Commission, Karlton Johnson prepared figures that showed how the local church goals might be arrived at by four different methods.

After discussion it was voted by the delegates to instruct the Commission to use Plan D. This plan is related to the minimum goal recommended by General Synod and treats each church as an individual unit.

1. The basic minimum that any church should be contributing to Our Christian World Mission is an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount spent on local expenses. Thus, if a church spends \$1,200 to operate its program, it should give at least \$120 to OCWM.

2. Since the minimum goal recommended by General Synod is an amount equal to 25 percent of local expenses, the plan would increase the goal for each church by 2.5 percent each year.

Thus, if a church gave an amount equal to less than 7.5 percent, then the goal is automatically 10 percent. If a church gave more than 7.5 percent then the new goal would be a 2.5 percent increase (e. g. 9.4 percent + 2.5 percent = 11.9 percent).

The commission will apply this plan to the 1972 statistics to figure the goals for 1974 and notify the results to the churches, but any church can figure its own. Let us illustrate with three examples:

	1972 Loc. Exp.	1972 OCWM	1972 Percent	New Percent	1974 Goal
Hanceville Mt. Grove	\$ 2,526	\$ 120	4.7	10.0	\$ 252
Garden City	4,053	420	10.4	12.9	523
Chattanooga Pilgrim	32,086	6,428	20.0	22.5	7,219

It should be kept in mind that there is always a lag of a year between the figures available and the one for which goals are being given. Assuming some advance each year, a 2.5 percent increase on year old figures is a modest amount.

—H. W. Tuttle, Outreach Commission

—K. C. Johnson, Regional Secretary

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator: Wallace Boothby	1975	Memoirs: Arnold Slater	
Vice-Mod.: Franklin Thomas	1975	Representatives to:	
Secretary: Mrs. A. D. Harry	1974	Urban Training Org. of Atlanta	
Treasurer: Norris L. Connally	1975	James Lindskoog	1974
Past Mod.: Mrs. W. Walter Hall	1975	Wm. T. Scott Jr.	1975
Members-at-Large to Board of Directors:		Robbins Community Center:	
Arnold Slater	1974	Walter Hall	
John T. Enwright	1975	Bobby Burton	
Frederick Jefferson	1976	Uplands Retirement Center:	
Commissions:		Rufus G. Obrecht	
Church & Ministry Coordinator:		Don P. Flick	
David Beebe	1975	W. J. Andes	
Asst. Coordinator:		Villa International:	
Homer McEwen	1974	K. C. Johnson	
Education Coord.:		Mrs. Arthur (Anne) Bronner	
J. K. Murphy	1975	General Synod:	
Asst. Ed. Coord.:		Mrs. Jackie Shrago	1973
Mrs. Marian Cameron	1974	Frederick Jefferson	1975
Outreach Coord.:		Wallace Boothby	1975
Henry W. Tuttle	1975	Edward Driscoll, Chm.	
Asst. Coord.:		Nominating Committee	
Mrs. Jackie Shrago	1974		

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions defines its responsibility as follows:

To identify, define, and discuss in committee sessions prior to and/or during the annual meeting of the conference those issues-problems that are related to the inner life and witness of the church body, and vital to that body's continuance and witness;

To identify, define, and discuss in committee sessions prior to and/or during the annual meeting of the conference those issues-problems of society upon which it is deemed essential that, as members of Christ's Body, positions of understanding, concern, and action need be sought.

To prepare, after identifications, definitions, and discussions under paragraphs two (2) and three (3), appropriate resolutions for the approval of the conference in its annual meeting.

The committee does not deem its responsibility to be that of developing formulas of thought and action for the conference members and constituents. It is a considered opinion that each person and each congregation in its own conscience must arrive at that conviction of thought and action which gives accountability for the Christian witness.

The committee seeks to identify, define, and urge concern for those matters which demand the attention of those committed to Christ.

THE REPORT

The theme of our conference is "The Celebration of Our Faith": To "Celebrate" means to rejoice, exalt, extol, and to lift up with joy. The meaning of "our faith" may be summarized in the expressed conviction of our church that God is in Jesus, "reconciling the world to Himself." These meanings set forth the spirit in which this, your Committee on Resolutions, went about its work.

It is here declared that we have celebrated our faith in the common experiences we have shared together at this conference.

In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, there is a beautiful phrase describing the earliest community of the "People of Faith," "All who believed were together." Our conference experiences may be described in this phrase, for in session here we have borne witness to our common belief in the transforming and the reconciling work of our Christ. In our conference experiences many things have been talked about. Some have been stated in clear, understandable terms. Some others have appeared vague, inadequate, and unresponsive to needs as we have seen them. The resulting confusion of tongues has led to a kind of Pentecostal experience

in which, though each spoke in his own language, we have, more or less, understood each other.

As we celebrate our faith we are humbled by the issues of our world, national, regional and local life which baffle us and give us a sense of our human inadequacies. We, therefore, have no formulas of thought and action to recommend and no pat answers to put forward; yet, we know in our celebration that we must not be paralyzed by our frustrations, or tempted to neglect the demands of our call to bear witness in faith to the Christ, in and out of season. We therefore, seek to identify and lift up some issues of current concern.

First, there comes to us from the United Board for World Ministries and the Council for Christian Social Action a resolution on Cuba. Second, from the Council for Christian Social Action comes a Proposed Pronouncement on "The Right To Die."

The matters with which each of these is concerned exercise decided effects upon our Christian witness and need much study and prayerful consideration if they are to be resolved.

Third, we the members of the Southeast Conference celebrate that so many of our youth have found identity with, and a true expression of their feelings in the teachings of the United Church of Christ. We resolve to deal fairly with all youth regardless of personal attire and current styles, for we recognize these as also a part of each individual's struggle for self-expression.

Fourth, we do celebrate the capability and equality of women within the Southeast Conference which has been ably demonstrated and registered in positions of leadership. It is time that the conference as a confederation of local churches examine and provide an equal employment opportunity for women within the local churches and conference positions.

Fifth, our attention has been directed, by an article in A. D. 73, to the ordination for the ministry of avowed homosexuals. This act presents an issue, grave and sensitive; yet it is one which raises the problem of moral regard for personal and individual expression and life style. We therefore seek to recognize this matter and resolve to seek help through instruments of study and prayerful concern that greater understanding may provide the ground for the patient seeking of answers to this difficult matter.

Sixth, we have witnessed tragic consequences as pertains to the treatment of persons in the custody of the law and incarcerated in jails and prisons. Much of such treatment has bred acts of violence and intensified the criminal mind. There

is here recognized a need to seek remedy through study and action inspired by the concern of our Christian community.

Seventh, we celebrate the courage shown by many of our churches that have addressed the issue of amnesty for those who have exiled themselves from our midst in order to avoid the military draft.

As Christians, recalling the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the image of the welcoming father, we resolve to encourage the consideration and promotion of the opening of avenues by which these sons may return home to full acceptance as citizens in good stead.

Now, whereas these matters are identified and whereas they are but sparse examples of the issues that confront us today — rather than an exhaustive list — we do hereby resolve that we will not be mocked in our celebrating by a naive rejoicing, but will seek in faith to study, and seek constantly for understanding that will make our witness the transforming and healing force we seek it to be.

And now further, whereas, our conference has been well served and guided in its session, we celebrate our faith in giving thanks and appreciation to those who have given of themselves for our benefit:

First, whereas, we recognize that celebration is essential to life and that humor and the carefree experience are meaningful in terms of helping us to take ourselves not too seriously —

Be it resolved that we extend thanks to the president and dean of Old Thermometer U, — A. R. Van Cleave and Warren Blankenhorn, respectively, for their expression of relaxation and recognition offered in their parody on Academic Honor.

Be it also resolved that we express our thanks to national leaders of the United Church of Christ who have been in attendance at our conference and who have shared their minds, spirits, and experiences with us: Yvonne Delk, Emily Lester, Karlton Johnson, Leon Dickinson, Ken Stokes, Hart Helmich, and Franklin Thomas.

Be it resolved that we express our thanks to the coordinators of commissions and those who worked with them; to the officers and the Board of Directors of the conference.

Be it resolved that we give special thanks to Bill Andes, our conference minister, for his patient and enduring service, his becalming spirit, and deep commitment to a trying task in difficult days.

Be it resolved that we extend deepest

(Continued on Page 7)

RESOLUTIONS...

(Continued from Page 6)

appreciation to our hosts: Southern Union College, its president, business manager, and staff — with special and honorable mention for those who have given us delightful meals and service; also thanks to those churches of Wadley and surrounding area who have shared in the task of hosting this conference.

Then be it further resolved that we give a rising vote of thanks and appreciation for the faithful service of Ms. Peggy Hall who, as moderator of our conference, has guided us and moved us in the name of Christ to our heights of Celebration.

And finally, be it resolved, in a paraphrase of the last paragraph of our Conference Hymn Book —

That we will reflect on the kind of commitment which renewal demands of us; that we will not place personal priorities above the call to Christian commitment; that we will open our lives to sources of power and thereby become agents for progress in the transforming and reconciling mission of the church.

Rev. Wilson Q. Welch Jr., Chm.

UCC Emblem Explained

We have been requested to explain the symbolism of the United Church of Christ emblem which appears at the head of every Southeast News issue. In response, we reprint the description of that emblem in the booklet *History and Program of the United Church of Christ*.

The emblem of the United Church of Christ is based on the ancient Christian symbol known as the Cross of Victory or the Cross Triumphant.

Traditionally, this symbol — the cross surmounted by the crown and all of it atop the orb — signifies the kingship of the Risen Christ over all the world. The orb, representing the world, is divided into three parts to signify the command of our Lord to his disciples: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

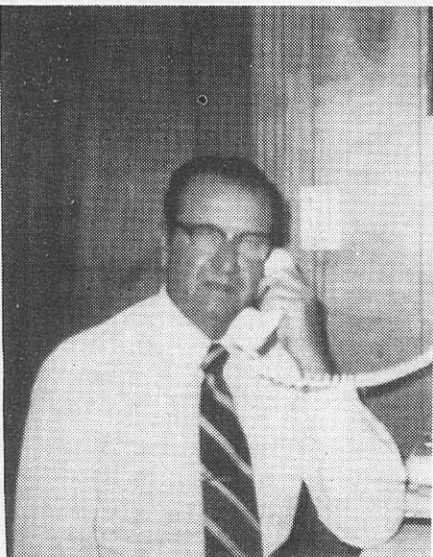
For the United Church of Christ this emblem, rich in the traditions of the past and alive with hope for the future, is particularly appropriate. For this reason there appear on the perimeter of the emblem both the name of the church and the text: "That they may all be one."

Hillside Church Calls

New Pastor

Rev. W. David Chandler of Beverly, Mass., has accepted the call of the Hillside Christian Church, LaGrange, Ga., as of June 18, 1973, and will begin his ministry there July 8, 1973.

Unique Telephone Ministry Of Rev. G. Graham Norris



Our electronic age has made possible a situation where Rev. Graham Norris, pastor of Rock Stand and Bethany churches, Roanoke, Ala., is able to be employed at the Leary-Owens Equipment Co., in Montgomery, live in Mountain Creek in Elmore County, and minister to two churches in Randolph County, 100 miles away.

How is this possible? Mr. Norris, through his connection with the Leary-Owens Equipment Co., for whom he has worked for 22 years, is able to pay a flat rate per month for his long-distance calls, and is allowed to use the telephone system for his ministry.

A typical day for Mr. Norris might be: On arrival at the job he makes a couple of calls to strategic homes in each community where he is reasonably sure of getting information as to people who are in need of a pastor's "visit". On his coffee breaks and lunch hour he calls Mrs. Norris, who gives him the necessary telephone numbers and she then sends greeting cards to the people involved. If there are no specific needs, he calls member families, making a list of those reached and those not at home for possible later calls.

Members of adjoining churches and communities, connected by relation to either members of his churches or members' families, many times receive a consoling or encouraging visit via telephone from "that pastor of the U. C. C. church."

Mr. Norris, while traveling great distances for his company, each night calls back to his daughters in Mt. Creek, one of whom is always able to tell her father news of each church and he then will call anyone in need of his services.

One amusing story is told at Rock Stand

about the minister's ability to "get news fast." At lunchtime one day he called the Caldwell home where he received the information that Mrs. Bassett had been admitted to the hospital. Mr. Norris immediately called the Bassett home, where Mr. Bassett informed him that he didn't know where his wife was, but that she wasn't at home yet. "Well, Mr. Bassett," Norris replied, "your wife is in the hospital!" to which Mr. Bassett gave a hasty reply and whisked off to see about his wife at the hospital.

Mr. Norris' congregations at Rock Stand and Bethany churches appreciate this modern means of communication and they are just as aware of the conscientiousness of their pastor in using this unique opportunity to minister.

—Mrs. Travis Moon

POW's AS SEEN

BY A YOUNG PERSON

The war in Vietnam is supposed to have ended. Most of the American troops have left the war scene of Vietnam and are back home with their families, relatives, and friends. The news media has kept American citizens well informed about the return of the prisoners of war.

The return of the P. O. W.'s is a Godly sight, but just about all the men seen on the TV are white. Many black persons have wondered why all of the P. O. W.'s seem to be white. I myself didn't or don't watch TV regularly, but when I was watching I saw no more than two blacks get off the planes. Some people seem to think that there aren't many high ranking blacks in the military. As I observed from the TV all of the men who returned were high ranking officials. But I would like to think that there are some distinguished high ranking blacks in the military.

The newsmen did not show the American people the P. O. W.'s who lost half of their bodies in battle. They showed one or two men limping off the planes with their crutches, but they did not show the P. O. W.'s who lost their eyes, legs, and their arms. Why not show these men? I don't think they thought they were good enough to be seen. There are many people in this country who are hipped to what I have just discussed but there are also twice as many people who are not. Why hide what is for real from your public, America? Why do you try to fool the people?

Right on for the high ranking blacks in the military.

ELLIS JACKSON

First Church, Montgomery

A Different Kind Of Revival

Key 73 was the key to the messages delivered by the Rev. Warren Blankenhorn at Rock Stand church June 24-29.

Mr. Blankenhorn gave each family a copy of "Touched by the Fire," which is the American Bible Society translation of Luke and Acts. He also provided for each one a mimeographed copy of an outline of the Gospel according to Luke. People were asked to study the scripture, reading Luke and Acts during the week.

In his first message he outlined what he had in mind to do in his sermons as they studied. He first presented the message of the gospel as recorded by Luke and then he outline the spread of the gospel as the history of the early church is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

Through each message ran the theme of the work, preaching, and ministry of the laymen as is illustrated in the scripture. He told how the first deacons became very active in making the message of Christ known. Many of them of their own choice,

and some because of persecution of the followers of Christ, went out to many parts of the surrounding countries to preach and organize churches.

It was an effort on the part of Mr. Blankenhorn to show how local members of the church can do effective preaching in their own community and in the market places of life.

It was not the traditional type of revival preaching but it certainly was a call and challenge to all professing Christians to give themselves to the "joy of discipleship in the service of men, and to proclaim the gospel to all the world."

One of the major objectives of the national emphasis of Key 73 is to enlist laymen of the church in reaching unchurched people for Christ and his church.

The women of Rock Stand church have purchased the Key 73 study guides to Luke and Acts to be used in study programs.

JOE A. FRENCH

Alabama-West Georgia Laity Retreat

The annual session of the Alabama Congregational Christian Women was held at Southern Union College, Wadley, on June 9, with Mrs. A. D. Harry of Lanett presiding.

The theme, "Choose Life," was presented in an informative, inspiring, and challenging manner by the following people. Mrs. Harold D. Auler, Lanett, a former missionary for 17 years to

Honduras, shared personal experiences and film slides on the theme.

Mrs. Dahlia Holley of Lanett shared her experiences of a Key 73 Workshop which she attended in Florida. Mrs. F. F. Cameron of Birmingham challenged the group to more active participation in sharing Christian faith through the use of a film as well as by methods of using printed materials and programs.

The following officers were installed for 1973-1975: President, Mrs. Joe A. French, Roanoke; vice-president, Miss Nonnie Looser, Lanett; secretary, Mrs. William A. Hodnett, Shawmut; treasurer, Mrs. A. R. Van Cleave, Wadley; education chairman, Mrs. J. H. Richards, Roanoke; stewardship chairman, Mrs. Buford Bishop, Wedowee; witness chairman, Mrs. Mary Finney, Roanoke.

The Rev. Terry Clark, pastor of United Congregational Christian Church, La-Grange, Ga., installed the officers and concluded the session with an impressive communion service.

Extend Your Horizons
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REVIVALS AND REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

NEW HOPE, LaFayette, Revival July 22-27, visiting preacher Rev. Floyd Carmack. Regular worship services every Sunday morning. Rev. Olin E. Sheppard, pastor.

FOREST HOME, Roanoke, Revival July 22-27, visiting speaker Mr. Albert Thornton. Regular services on second and fourth Sundays. Rev. Johnny Young, pastor.

NOON DAY, Wedowee, Revival July 22-27, with the pastor, Rev. Ralph Worley, preaching. Worship services every second and fourth Sundays, both morning and evening.

BETHANY, Roanoke, Revival August 5-10 with preaching by Rev. Olin E. Sheppard. Regular worship services first and third Sundays, both morning and evening. Rev. Graham Norris, pastor.

MT. ZION, Roanoke, Revival Aug. 5-10 with the pastor, Rev. Roy Chatham, preaching. Worship services on first and third Sundays, morning and evening.

ANTIOCH, Roanoke, Revival August 12-17 with Rev. Harold N. Auler preaching. Regular services on second and fourth Sundays, morning and evening. Rev. E. G. Clark, pastor.

CORINTH, Wadley, Revival August 17, 18, 19, with Rev. A. R. Van Cleave preaching. Worship services on first and third Sundays, morning and evening. Rev. Johnny Young, pastor.

LANETT FIRST, Revival August 19-23, with Rev. David Naglee preaching. Worship every Sunday morning and evening. Rev. Harold N. Auler, pastor.

BETHEL, West Point, Revival August 6-10, with Rev. Kenneth Godfrey preaching. Morning worship every Sunday. Rev. Charles F. Bohannon, pastor.

ROANOKE FIRST, Celebration of 50th anniversary of the church and the 45th anniversary of the ordination of the pastor, Rev. Joe A. French, with services every Sunday, September 22 through October 14 with visiting speakers.

Improvements At Forest Home

Forest Home Church, Roanoke, has been making some improvements in the church building. They have purchased new pews and pulpit furniture and had it installed. Along with this installation carpet was also put on the floor.

A dual heating and cooling unit has been bought so that the congregation may be comfortable both in winter and summer.

The church members are now contributing to a building fund for an addition to the church. This will consist of an additional room for group meetings and class use and installing two rest rooms.

The Rev. Johnny Young, pastor of the church, has been approved by the East Association for ordination and the service is expected to be held in the Rock Springs Church in August. Mr. Young is also pastoring the Corinth, Wadley, church.